

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, and 12 have been amended, claims 7, 10, 11, and 16 have been canceled, and claims 31-36 have been added. As such, claims 1-6, 8, 9, 12-15, 17-19, and 22-36 are currently pending in the case. Further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 22-30 and eagerly awaits formal allowance of the remaining claims.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant sincerely appreciates the Examiner's recognition of the patentable subject matter recited in these claims. To expedite prosecution, claim 7 has been canceled and its limitations have been incorporated into base claim 1, placing claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom in condition for allowance. In addition, claim 16 has been canceled and its limitations have been incorporated into base claim 12, placing claim 12 and claims dependent therefrom in condition for allowance. Accordingly, removal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Section 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 12-15, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,063,689 to Chen et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,972,124 to Sethuraman et al (hereinafter referred to as "Sethuraman"). In addition, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 12-15, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,136,713 to Chen et al. in view of Sethuraman. As noted above, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the allowable limitations of claims 7 and 16, respectively. Thus, claims 1 and 12, as well as claims dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Patentability of the Added Claims

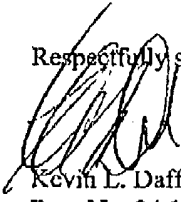
The present amendment adds claims 31-36 which are dependent from claim 12 discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 31-36 are patentably distinct over the cited art for at least the same reasons claim 12. Accordingly, approval of added claims 31-36 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

This response constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the Office Action mailed April 8, 2004. In view of the remarks traversing the rejections, Applicants assert that pending claims 1-6, 8, 9, 12-15, 17-19, and 22-36 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account No. 03-2769/5298-04700.

Respectfully submitted,


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